

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A device for minimizing cigarette sidestream smoke and reducing free-burn rate of a burning cigarette, said device comprising:

- i) a non-combustible tubular element encasing an effective length of a tobacco charge of a cigarette located in said tubular element; and
- ii) said tubular element comprising ceramic material ~~and having a predetermined number of pores and predetermined pore sizes~~ a means for minimizing sidestream smoke emission from a burning tobacco charge and ~~reducing~~ restricting inward flow of air to reduce free-burn rate of such burning tobacco charge to increase number of puffs from said burning tobacco charge.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A device for minimizing cigarette sidestream smoke and reducing free-burn rate of a burning cigarette, said device comprising:

- i) a non-combustible tubular element encasing an effective length of a tobacco charge of a cigarette located in said tubular element; and
- ii) said tubular element ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of porous ceramic material ~~and having a porosity~~ for both minimizing sidestream smoke emission from a burning tobacco charge and reducing free-burn rate of such burning tobacco charge to increase number of puffs from said burning tobacco charge.